

VMB-413

148
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Report# 260

#0 (8)

4

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

I. GENERAL

CONFIDENTIAL

260

(a) Unit Reporting VMB - 413 (b) Based on or at Emirau, St. Matthias (c) Report No. Two hundred-sixty
 Ref. (d) Take off: Date 16/17 April, 1945 Time (LZT) narrative (Zone); Lat. 01°36'S Long. 150°E
 Ref. (e) Mission Heckle Kavieng Area, New Ireland (f) Time of Return narrative (Zone)

II. OWN AIRCRAFT OFFICIALLY COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

| TYPE (a) | SQUADRON (b) | NUMBER | | | BOMBS AND TORPEDOES CARRIED (PER PLANE) (f) | FUZE, SETTING (g) |
|--------------|-----------------|----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------|
| | | TAKING OFF (c) | ENGAGING ENEMY A/C (d) | ATTACKING TARGET (e) | | |
| <u>PBJ-1</u> | <u>VMB413</u> | <u>5</u> | <u>None</u> | <u>5</u> | <u>12 x 100 incendiaries</u> | <u>No Fuse</u> |
| <u>PBJ-1</u> | <u>VMB413</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>None</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>11 x 100 incendiaries</u> | <u>No Fuse</u> |

III. OTHER U. S. OR ALLIED AIRCRAFT EMPLOYED IN THIS OPERATION.

| TYPE | SQUADRON | NUMBER | BASE | TYPE | SQUADRON | NUMBER | BASE |
|------|-------------|--------|------|------|----------|--------|------|
| | <u>None</u> | | | | | | |

IV. ENEMY AIRCRAFT OBSERVED OR ENGAGED (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

| (a) TYPE | (b) NO OBSERVED | (c) NO ENGAGING OWN A/C | (d) TIME ENCOUNTERED | (e) LOCATION OF ENCOUNTER | (f) BOMBS, TORPEDOES CARRIED; GUNS OBSERVED | (g) CAMOUFLAGE AND MARKING |
|-------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| | <u>None</u> | | <u>(ZONE)</u> | | | |
| | | | <u>(ZONE)</u> | | | |
| | | | <u>(ZONE)</u> | | | |

(h) Apparent Enemy Mission(s) _____
 Did Any Part of _____
 (i) Encounter(s) Occur in Clouds? _____ If so, Describe Clouds _____
(YES OR NO) (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
 Time of Day and Brilliance _____
 (j) of Sun or Moon _____ (NIGHT, BRIGHT MOON; DAY, OVERCAST; ETC.) (k) Visibility _____ (MILES)

V. ENEMY AIRCRAFT DESTROYED OR DAMAGED IN AIR (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

| (a) TYPE ENEMY A/C | (b) DESTROYED OR DAMAGED BY: | | | | (c) WHERE HIT, ANGLE | (d) DAMAGE CLAIMED |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|----------|-----------------|-----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| | TYPE A/C | SQUADRON | PILOT OR GUNNER | GUNS USED | | |
| | <u>None</u> | | | | | |
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VI. LOSS OR DAMAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONAL, OF OWN AIRCRAFT (of those listed in II only). VMB 413

| (a) TYPE OWN A/C | (b) SQUADRON | (c) CAUSE: TYPE ENEMY A/C, TYPE GUN, OR OPERATIONAL CAUSE | (d) WHERE HIT, ANGLE (List armor, self-sealing tanks, equipment hit) | (e) EXTENT OF LOSS OR DAMAGE. (Give Bureau serial number of planes destroyed) |
|---------------------|-----------------|---|--|---|
| 1 | None | | | |
| 2 | | | | |
| 3 | | | | |
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| 13 | | | | |
| 14 | | | | |

VII. PERSONNEL CASUALTIES (in aircraft listed in II only; identify with planes listed in VI by Nos. at left).

| (a) NO | (b) SQUADRON | (c) NAME, RANK OR RATING | (d) CAUSE | (e) CONDITION OR STATUS |
|-----------|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| | None | | | |
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VIII. RANGE, FUEL, AND AMMUNITION DATA FOR PLANES RETURNING

| (a) TYPE A/C | (b) MILES OUT | (c) MILES RETURN | (d) AV. HOURS IN AIR | (e) AV. FUEL LOADED | (f) AV. FUEL CONSUMED | (g) TOTAL AMMUNITION EXPENDED | | | | (h) NO. OF PLANES RETURNING |
|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----|------|----|-----------------------------------|
| | | | | | | .30 | .50 | 20MM | MM | |
| FBJ-1 | 74 | 74 | 2hr 10' | 975 | 254 | N | O | N | E | 6 |
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IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (Check one block on each line).

| CALIBER | NONE | MEAGER | MODERATE | INTENSE |
|---|------|--------|----------|---------|
| HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over | X | | | |
| MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm | X | | | |
| LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm | X | | | |

X. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE, OWN AND ENEMY AIRCRAFT (use check list at left).

- SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes
 - TURN
 - DIVES
 - CEILINGS
 - RANGE
 - PROTECTION
 - ARMAMENT

No enemy aircraft encountered.

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(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

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XI. ATTACK ON ENEMY SHIPS OR GROUND OBJECTIVES (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

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Ref.

narrative (Zone)

- (a) Target(s) and Location(s) Kavieng, New Ireland (b) Time Over Target(s) _____
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)
- (c) Clouds Over Target 4/10 (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)
- (d) Visibility of Target Partially Obscured (e) Visibility 20
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)
- (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Medium level Bomb Sight Used Mk. 15 Mod. 7
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)
- Bombs Dropped per Run Varied Spacing Varied Altitude of Bomb Release 10,000 to 11,500
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)
- (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed None Probably Destroyed None Damaged None

| (h) AIMING POINT | (i) DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE | (j) NO. A/C ATTACKING (k) SQUADRON | (l) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED EACH AIMING POINT | (m) NO. HITS ON Aiming Point | (n) DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk) |
|------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|---|
| 1 | From Kavieng Town to Panapai Strip | 6 | 71 x 100 incendiary see (o) see (o) clusters | | |
| 2 | | VMB - 413 | | | |
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(o) RESULTS: (For all hits claimed on ship targets and for land targets of special interest, draw diagram, top or side view or both, as appropriate, showing type and location of hits. For all targets give location and effect of hits, and identify by numbers above. Use additional sheets if necessary.)

71 x 100 incendiary clusters Between Kavieng Town and Panapai.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? No Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple

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XII. TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL DATA. (Narrative and comment. Describe action fully and comment freely following applicable items in check list at left. Use additional sheets if necessary.)

ENGAGEMENT WITH ENEMY

OWN AIRCRAFT

Disposition
Altitudes
Speeds
Approach Tactics
Use of Cover, Deception
Angles of Attack and
Their Effectiveness
Distance of Opening Fire
Defensive Tactics and
Their Effectiveness

ENEMY AIRCRAFT

Method of Locating, Distance
Disposition
Altitudes
Speeds
Approach Tactics
Use of Cover, Deception
Angles of Attack
Distance of Opening Fire
Defensive Tactics

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Own Weaknesses
Enemy Weaknesses
Offensive Tactics, Own
" " , Enemy
Defensive Tactics, Own
" " , Enemy
Flexible Gunnery, Own
Escort Tactics
Fighter Direction
Use of Radar
Night Fighting
Recognition, Aircraft

ATTACK

OWN TACTICS

Method of Locating Target
Approach to Target
Altitudes, Speeds
Approach
Dive
Pull-Out
Dive Angle
Strafing
Retirement
Defensive Tactics
Use of Jamming

DEFENSE, ENEMY

Evasive Tactics, Ships
Concealment
Searchlights
Night Fighter Tactics
Use of Jamming

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Bombing Tactics
Torpedo Tactics
Effectiveness of
Bombs, Torpedoes
Selection of Targets
Fuzing
Strafing Tactics
Defensive Tactics
Use of Radar
Reconnaissance
Photography
Briefing

OPERATIONAL

Navigation
Homing
Rendezvous
Recognition, Ships
Communications
Flight Operations
Search and Tracking
Base Operations
Maintenance

| CALL | TTO: | TOT: | PILOT | TOT: |
|--------|------|------|----------------|------|
| 254B21 | 2028 | 2100 | BRUEGGE STRASS | 2227 |
| 255B21 | 2028 | 2130 | ROSS | 2227 |
| 256B21 | 2155 | 2130 | LEGGIO | 2343 |
| 257B21 | 2155 | 2200 | SMITH | 2343 |
| 258B21 | 2349 | 0019 | HELLING | 0140 |
| 259B21 | 2349 | 0110 | GILBERT | 0140 |

Six Mitchells taking off in two plane sections at 2028, 2155 and 2349 heckled Kavieng from 2100 on 16 April to 0110 on 17 April, 1945.

Departing from base to target, the planes flew direct to the western most tip of New Hanover then a course of 094 degrees magnetic was taken to target. On the return, planes flew direct from target to base.

On target, one PBV acted as cover while the other heckled for half the allotted time on station, then the heckler and cover would exchange duties. The cover plane was always 1000 feet higher than the heckler.

With a minimum altitude of 10,000 feet for heckling, the altitude was varied 500 feet on each run, also course and speed was varied.

Dropping a total of 71 x 100 incendiary clusters in twenty four runs made on target, bombs were dropped from North Cape and Kavieng Town to Panapai bivouac area.

Damage was unobserved except for five consecutive explosions with white smoke rising to 600 feet from bombs dropped north east of Kavieng strip just off the north east coast (possible oil or gas drums).

No searchlights were encountered during the period and only three or four orange flashes were observed, but gun positions could not be spotted.

The last two planes hit the deck at 0140.

(All times narrative are love)

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